

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Chile

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Position of Frente Nacional Democratico

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1. The internal dissensions of the Frente Nacional Democratico (FND) just after the 6 March 1949 elections, in which the Communists were accused of having betrayed their allies, have ended with the loss of two Communist Party candidates who were elected, and also the loss of the FND headquarters at the corner of Merced and MacIver.
2. The candidates Juan Segundo Lamatta and Jose Avendaño, of Valparaiso and Santiago respectively, apparently have lost their cases in the Tribunal Calificador de Elecciones (Qualifying Election Tribunal). The claims against them were aided by their own ex-allies, and especially by the Socialistas Autenticos led by Marmaduke Grove and Asdrual Pezoa.
3. The FND headquarters on Monjitas, corner of MacIver, was rented by the FND in the name of Asdrual Pezoa for the purpose of using it as a dentist's study. The proprietor of the building is Alejandro Comandari, an Arab businessman and owner of a yarn factory, who complained daily concerning the hoax that had been perpetrated on him. Taking advantage of the fact that the center was in the name of a militant of the Partido Socialista Autentico, Marmaduke Grove made the Communists leave that location and prohibited their holding meetings of the FND.
4. Because of these incidents, the semi-legal organization of the Communist Party has been considerably damaged, since there have been public incidents which have gone against those who served as a screen. In addition, similar incidents have been occurring in the provinces. The work of the police has been facilitated since the electoral upsets have caused bitter feelings which led to many accusations by the disgruntled politicians.
5. Marmaduke Grove Vallejos, who lent his prestige as a popular leader of long standing for the organization of the FND, with the hope of being reelected Senator, feels he has been defrauded by the Communists. Grove had calculated that he did not have enough strength in his own right to obtain his reelection on 6 March and sought collaboration with the Communists. They offered him all their help, but after a series of deliberations they convinced him that he should leave his place in Santiago to a candidate who would get more strength, such as Guillermo del Pedregal, and that he should become candidate for his native Province of Atacama. They assured him that aside from the votes he could command personally he would have Communist support amounting to 3000 votes. The result was that he

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GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

got 800, and realized he had been the victim of a fraud. "The only thing that bothers me," he said, "is that they made me ridiculous in my own province--if they had left me in Santiago" As a result, Grove left the FND and many of his partisans have given details of organization to the police in the province.

6. In view of all that has happened, the FND has had to move to Catedral 1377, the location of the Partido Democratico del Pueblo, where the FND continues under the presidency of Armando Rodriguez Quezada, another candidate who was defeated and is disgruntled, but who has not yet withdrawn from the FND.

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